

of shouting. A circular letter advising our branches to send resolutions to the Cabinet and to M.P.'s asking that in the interests of health and efficiency the practice of shouting should be prohibited, was responded to by practically every Union, while a number report work in securing signatures to a petition for the same purpose promoted by another organisation. Auckland Union reports having secured 16,140 signatures. Another matter which called for vigorous action and protest from the Unions was embodied in Clause 3, section 6, sub-section V. of the War Regulations Bill. This proposed to give the Governor-in-Council power to make regulations for the suppression of prostitution or for the prevention of venereal disease. A knowledge of the history of the attempts made to deal with the social evil has made the members of our Unions very suspicious of such proposals. Moreover, the delegation of the powers of Parliament to a body which transacts its business in secret was regarded as being utterly opposed to the principles of Democratic Government. The Executive officers therefore addressed two letters to the members of the Cabinet. In these letters the position of the Union with regard to the C.D. Acts and to the methods of dealing with venereal diseases was clearly set forth, and a demand was made that the measures to be taken should be plainly set forth in an Act of Parliament. Special stress was laid upon the fact that since it was proposed to confer upon a body of men the power to deal with certain women, the women of the Dominion had a right to know what measures it was proposed to take. A copy of the letter embodying these statements was sent to every member of Parliament. Auckland, Ponsonby, Wellington District and Central, Gisborne, Lower Hutt, Palmerston North, Pahiatua, Feilding, Napier, New Plymouth, Christchurch, Nelson, New Brighton, Lyttelton, Ashburton, Timaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, and Invercargill South report resolutions protesting against the proposal, copies of the resolutions being sent to Cabinet Ministers and M.P.'s. In the majority of cases demand was made for the provision of proper treatment for sufferers, and for a vigorous educational campaign. Auckland, Gisborne, and Wellington also report having taken part in public meetings of women to protest. Christchurch Union organised a public meeting and distributed literature. Every member of Parliament also received from the Superintendent of this department a letter pointing out that Parliament could immediately put in operation two measures which would materially assist to minimise the social evil. These were the closing of liquor bars at 6 p.m., and the employment of women police in the larger centres of population and in the vicinity of military camps. Again we have to record the failure of our

efforts as far as any amendment of the War Regulations Bill was concerned. Our work, however, was not in vain, for as a result of the letters and protests sent to members, the Minister of Public Health was compelled to explain what regulations it was proposed to make. The agitation for the employment of women police has been carried on with considerable vigour: letters have been sent to the Prime Minister and the members of the Cabinet, and the following Union report resolutions sent to the Minister of Justice and others:—Wellington District and Central, Gisborne, Lower Hutt, Palmerston North, Pahiatua, Hawera, Nelson, Christchurch, and Wellington and Canterbury Provincial Conventions. Wellington Unions also took part in a deputation to the Minister of Justice, and though the case for the employment of women police was put very strongly, an unsympathetic reply was given by the Minister. Dunedin Union organised a very successful meeting of representatives of various societies to urge (1) the immediate appointment of women police, and (2) the appointment in every centre of a woman as protector and adviser of young women and children, with the authority of a Justice of the Peace, such protector to be authorised to attend all Courts in all cases where any woman or child is concerned, and to interfere if she considers it advisable. Ashburton reports a resolution asking for the adequate punishment of men convicted of offences against women and children. Wellington Provincial Convention, Pahiatua, Nelson, and Palmerston North Unions urged the provision of a farm colony for moral degenerates. Wellington Central reports having taken part in a deputation to the Minister of Internal Affairs to urge that a censorship of cinema films should be established. The Government having decided to comply with the request, the Canterbury Provincial Convention urged that women should be appointed on the Appeal Board in connection with the censorship of pictures. Several Unions protested against the regulation prohibiting the sale of liquor to women after 6 p.m. Equal laws for both sexes were demanded. Wellington Provincial Convention and Nelson Union urged the Government to appoint women cooks in military camps. A resolution was forwarded to members of the Cabinet from Wellington Provincial Convention. This resolution asked that any restrictive measures concerning the conduct of women be effected by statute and not by order of the Governor-in-Council, and that in the circumstances of our not having women in Parliament, with full opportunity for obtaining the opinion of representative women thereon.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU.

Superintendent: Mrs Young.

Very few Unions have sent in reports, due probably to their absorp-

tion in patriotic work. Auckland reports that at their district Convention a paper was read on L.T.L. work, written by Mrs Duxfield.

Pahiatua reports addresses on the following subjects: "W.C.T.U. Work," "The Dangers of Venereal Disease," "The History of the N.Z. Franchise Movement," "The Dominion Convention," "The Goliath of England (Strong Drink)" "Proportional Representation."

New Brighton, addresses on "The Montessori System of Education."

Christchurch had addresses on "Life and Health," and "The Montessori System."

Invercargill, South Invercargill, and Bluff all report that addresses were given on Franchise Day.

On Frances Willard Day, Invercargill reports an address on the "Life of Frances Willard."

LITERATURE.

Superintendent: Mrs Dearlove.

In spite of many difficulties, the past year has been more favourable than might have been expected, and though the reports received are not numerous, yet they cover the ground from Auckland to Invercargill and from East to West, showing the seed is being sown over all our fair land. Railway station boxes have been well looked after in some places, and suitable literature was distributed at Shows and Rest Tents, whilst hospitals, old people's homes, young women's Bible classes, railway and flaxmill hands, and some country districts have been catered for.

Our seamen and soldiers have not been overlooked.

Our own monthly paper, the "White Ribbon," "The Bulletin," "Purity Advocate," have been regularly distributed, as well as Temperance, Purity, Health, and Peace literature. Lending libraries connected with some Unions are doing good work, and gradually enlarging their stock as means permit. This branch of the work I would press on the attention of all Unions, as it is a means of getting the more expensive books read by our members and friends where the price precludes their purchase by individuals in these strenuous days.

Receipts for 1916 ...	£16 9 1
Sold at Convention ...	4 16 10
Balance from 1915 ...	8 16 8
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	30 2 7
Expenditure for 1916 ...	17 11 4½
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	£12 11 2½

PURITY AND MORAL EDUCATION.

Superintendent: Miss McCarthy.

Much activity has been displayed by the Unions. A circular letter was sent to all Branches suggesting that a copy be forwarded to Ministers' Associations, Conferences, Summer Schools, etc. The following Unions report that this has been done:—Christchurch, Palmerston North,